

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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April 20, 2007

To: Regional Transportation Planning Agencies/Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
Potential Applicants for the Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Program

**FTA SECTION 5310 GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE**

This serves to provide you with updated information on the status of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities grant program changes as brought about by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

FTA Grant Workshops – Since my last program update letter, we have made significant progress in the implementation of SAFETEA-LU. In January and February 2007, our office held six FTA Grant Workshops statewide. The workshops provided participants with all of the SAFETEA-LU changes and requirements for each of the federal transit grant programs administered by this office. The workshops were well attended, and we received great feedback indicating the information was both useful and appreciated. Participation in one of these workshops is required before applying for future FTA 5310 grant funding. For those who still need to participate in a workshop, we have posted our Fresno/Diamond Bar workshop presentations on our website. To view these workshops and obtain the necessary information needed to apply for future FTA grant funding, please go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/MAIN-Workshops.htm>.

Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) – SAFETEA-LU requires that all projects receiving FTA Section 5310 funds must be derived from a coordinated plan before funding can be approved. Consequently, the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 Section 5310 grant cycle was postponed in part to allow agencies sufficient time to complete their coordinated plans. In February, we surveyed urbanized-area agencies on their progress. We were pleased to learn that most urbanized areas were already underway in their coordinated plan process. We will conduct another survey in June 2007 to ascertain anticipated dates for coordinated plan completion. For rural areas, our office is completing the coordinated plans for 20 counties under a master contract funded through the rural transit grant program. These plans are scheduled for completion within 6-12 months from contract execution. (See the workshop presentation at the aforementioned link for more information on this master contract.)

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Circular FTA C 9010.1F – The FTA has published the final Circular for the Section 5310 grant program, and it is effective May 1, 2007. Subsequently, our office will be updating the Section 5310 State Management Plan, application, and guidelines in accordance with the final Circular. You may access this Circular online at <http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/C9070.1F.pdf>.

California Transportation Commission – Per State law (AB 772), the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved the program of projects in October 2006 for FFY 2007. With the recent passage of the federal budget and receipt of the FTA's authorization, we will submit the FFY 2007 grant to the FTA by the end of this month. We will notify grantees promptly upon receipt of the FTA's approval.

In addition, the CTC will be re-establishing the Section 5310 Advisory Committee within the next few weeks. This committee will review the required SAFETEA-LU changes to the grant program, revise project selection criteria in accordance with the final Circular, and make recommendations to the CTC for adoption. Our office, the Division of Mass Transportation, will be in a support role for the Section 5310 Advisory Committee and work closely with CTC staff. Once adopted by the CTC, the project selection process will begin for the FFY 2008 grant cycle, at which time we will send out a call for projects.

Thank you again for your continued partnership and collaboration as we strive to implement these new requirements into the FTA Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities grant program.

If you have any other questions or need additional information, please contact Cindy Chiaverini, Section 5310 Program Branch Chief, or her staff on the toll-free line at 1-888-472-6816.

Sincerely,

KIMBERLY A. GAYLE  
Office Chief  
Federal Transit Grants

c: California Association for Coordinated Transportation  
California Transit Association

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bc: Annette Gilbertson, CTC  
Juan Guzman, CTC  
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California Transit Association

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